

VZCZCXRO9523
OO RUEHPA
DE RUEHOS #0431 0821621
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 231621Z MAR 06
FM AMCONSUL LAGOS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6846
INFO RUEHZK/ECOWAS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 0616
RUEPGDA/USEUCOM JIC VAHINGEN GE IMMEDIATE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 000431

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE PASS DOE FOR DAS JBRODMAN AND CGAY
TREASURY FOR ASEVERENS AND SRENENDER
COMMERCE FOR KBURRESS
STATE PASS TRANSPORTATION FOR MARAD
STATE PASS USAID FOR GWEYNAND AND SLAWAETZ
STATE FOR DS/IP/AF, AF/EX, DS/IP/OPO, DS/ICI/PII, DS/DSS/ITA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/22/2016
TAGS: [EPET](#) [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#) [PTER](#) [CASC](#) [NI](#)
SUBJECT: NIGERIA: HOSTAGE-TAKING, SITREP # 31

REF: LAGOS 427

Classified By: Acting Political/Economic Chief Shannon Ross
for reasons 1.4 (D/E).

Hostage Welfare Update

[1](#)1. (C) There have been no additional reports on the
hostages' wellbeing.

Hostage Negotiations

[1](#)2. (C) NGO lead Judy Asuni claims her sources in contact
with the hostage-takers said the hostages will be released in
24 to 36 hours. Other Warri sources report one hostage (Cody
Oswalt) will be released soon. (Comment: There is no
evidence to corroborate either claim. End comment.)

[1](#)3. (C) FEST members and Conoff attended a public solidarity
meeting in Warri. The Federal Ministers of Petroleum, Police
Affairs, Science and Technology, Transport, and Defense
attended along with Delta State Governor Ibori and Delta
State Commissioners. The Federal Minister of Defense is
Itsekiri; the other four federal ministers are Ijaw. The
group expressed their common interest in achieving a peaceful
and productive Niger Delta. Governor Ibori remarked about
the high level of international attention on the area,
President Obasanjo's consternation with the ongoing
situation, and the negotiating team's continued displeasure
with the international press and the confusion caused by
their sometimes inaccurate reporting.

Energy Update

[1](#)4. (C) There were no significant energy developments.

Military Update

¶5. (C) There were no significant military developments.

Media Update

¶6. (SBU) Numerous dailies reported British High Commissioner Gozney's statement calling for the hostages' release and commitment to participate in efforts to improve conditions in the Niger Delta. The Punch reported the Ijaw militants holding the hostages rejected the latest pleas for their release and threatened more attacks.

Consular Update

¶7. (C) There have been no reports of additional attacks on AmCits. One mission Conoff and one FEST member are in Warri monitoring negotiations and prepared to assist with repatriation. The UK also has a consular officer in Warri to monitor negotiations and assist with repatriation. The head of Shell Security is on standby for repatriation assistance.
HOWE